

Atlantic Coastline, from Sandy Hook to Cape May in just over four days. As the sponsor of local marathons, "he always cheered the loudest for the people coming in last. He'd be there for the lady running 13-minute miles, when no one else was there. He'd put the biggest smile on her face, making her feel like she'd just won the race," said his son, Charles Rooney III.

It was appropriate that the dedication of Charles Rooney Swing Bridge Park is taking place on Fathers Day, because Mayor Rooney was the father of so many wonderful environmental improvement projects that enhanced the quality of life in Sea Bright for its residents and others to enjoy. He was also a tremendous role model, not only for his son and daughter, but for all of us in public service who could learn so much from the warm and wonderful way he served the people of Sea Bright.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM TURNER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 16, 1999

Mr. TURNER. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 51, I was absent because of my participation in a congressional delegation trip to Russia with members of the House Armed Services Subcommittee on Military Research and Development for the purpose of discussing with the Russian Duma pending anti-missile defense legislation. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on H.R. 774

APPLE AND ONION DISASTER LEGISLATION, H.R. 2237

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 16, 1999

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, the plight of the apple and onion farmers of New York State remains a major concern for many of us in Congress who represent New York State. Following the severe, inclement weather that devastated crops in various Counties throughout our state last year, our farmers found themselves hampered by an ineffective federal crop insurance policy and a bureaucracy that showed very little compassion.

Hardest hit by last year's storm were New York State's apple and onion farmers. Our onion producers in Pine Island, NY in particular, faced catastrophic losses due to a hail storm that passed through the region on May 31st of last year. That storm left many of our farmers with no considerable yields, forcing many to zero out their crops, leaving them without a marketable product.

Faced with last year's losses and still recovering from losses incurred in 1996, our farmers looked to their crop insurance for assistance. What they found instead was an inadequate program that did nothing to assuage the burden that their losses placed upon them.

Regrettably, the Department of Agriculture's response to our farmers plight has been a

case of too little, too late. Following last year's hail storm, Congress passed the Omnibus Appropriations Act of 1998, which approved \$5.9 billion dollars in disaster assistance for affected farmers nationwide. While payments were made directly and immediately to hog, wheat, cotton and dairy farmers, action to ease our apple and onion farmers plight was much too slow in coming. A sign-up period was enacted by the Secretary for affected apple and onion farmers which was initially to last from February 1, 1999 to May 11, 1999.

The sign-up period proved to be a disaster within itself. Met with poor training, inadequate staffing and numerous delays, our farmers did not see one penny of the disaster assistance until just last week, one year later and months into this year's planting season.

This legislation, H.R. 2237 co-sponsored by Congressman WALSH, provides that the Secretary of Agriculture authorize \$40 billion for additional disaster assistance to affected apple and onion farmers in New York State, so that they may fully recover from the damage and losses that they have incurred over the past three years. We look forward to working with the Secretary of Agriculture in the coming months to work towards the implementation of these funds, as well as a thorough revision of the federal crop insurance program, so that we may ensure that the future of our nation's farmers remain prosperous.

H.R. 2237

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. EMERGENCY CROP LOSS ASSISTANCE FOR NEW YORK APPLE PRODUCERS.

(a) ASSISTANCE AUTHORIZED.—In addition to other authorities available to the Secretary of Agriculture to provide assistance to apple producers who incur crop losses, the Secretary may provide assistance under this section to apple producers in the State of New York who incurred losses in 1998 to apple crops due to damaging weather or related conditions.

(b) SPECIAL RULES.—In providing assistance to apple producers under this section, the Secretary shall calculate the amount of a apple producer's payment in a manner that—

- (1) does not discount excess juice production;
- (2) allows producers in 1998 to use their historical production as a yield basis;
- (3) ensures that losses in each marketing category (primary, secondary, and tertiary) are only added together, and not subtracted as currently proposed by the Department of Agriculture; and

(4) uses the 5-year average market price for apples in New York as established by the National Agriculture Statistics Service.

(c) MAXIMUM PAYMENT LIMITATION.—In providing assistance to apple producers under this section, the maximum payment limitation per farm shall be equal to the higher of—

- (1) \$80,000; or
- (2) the product of \$1,350 and the total farm orchard acreage.

(d) IMPLEMENTATION.—The Secretary shall issue guidelines for the provision of assistance under this section, which shall be available to affected apple producers not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act. Subject to the availability of funds for this purpose, the Secretary shall make payments available under this section

in an expeditious time frame in order to alleviate the severe financial strain of New York State apple producers.

SEC. 2. EMERGENCY CROP LOSS ASSISTANCE FOR NEW YORK ONION PRODUCERS.

(a) ASSISTANCE AUTHORIZED.—In addition to other authorities available to the Secretary of Agriculture to provide assistance to onion producers who incur crop losses, the Secretary may provide assistance under this section to onion producers in the State of New York who incurred losses in 1998 to onion crops due to damaging weather or related conditions.

(b) ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS.—To be eligible for assistance under this section, the Secretary must conclude that, because of damaging weather or related condition in 1998, the total quantity of the 1998 onion crop that a New York onion producer was able to harvest was less than 65 percent of the producer's historical yield. The Secretary may accept information provided by insurance adjusters or the Cooperative Extension Service to verify a producer's loss in yield.

(c) CALCULATION OF PAYMENT.—

(1) PAYMENT FORMULA.—In providing assistance to an eligible onion producer under this section, the per acre amount of the producer's payment shall be equal to the product of—

- (A) .65;
- (B) the applicable annual percentage history; and
- (C) payment rate.

(2) ANNUAL PERCENTAGE HISTORY.—For purposes of paragraph (1)(B), a producer may select as the producer's annual percentage history either the producer's own historical yield before 1996, per hundredweight, or the New York State average of 298 cwt.

(3) PAYMENT RATE.—For purposes of paragraph (1)(C), the Secretary shall use the 5-year average market price for yellow onions of \$15.00 cwt.

(d) IMPLEMENTATION.—The Secretary shall issue guidelines for the provisions of assistance under this section, which shall be available to affected onion producers not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act. Subject to the availability of funds for this purpose, the Secretary shall make payments available under this section in an expeditious time frame in order to alleviate the severe financial strain of New York State onion producers.

SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There is authorized to be appropriated \$40,000,000 to carry out this Act.

THE KOSOVO LIBERATION ARMY: A NAIVE VIEW OF A REBEL FORCE

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 16, 1999

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, this Member commends to his colleagues this June 9, 1999, Omaha World Herald editorial that cautions NATO not to underestimate the ambitions of the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) after the Serbian forces withdrawal from Kosovo.

THE KOSOVO LIBERATION ARMY: A NAIVE VIEW OF REBEL FORCE

NATO told Yugoslavia it would stop the air war if Serbian forces were pulled out of the province of Kosovo in one week. It's easy